

March 9, 2023
Maria Borja
Comunidades Sin Fronteras CSF-CT INC

Dear Members of the Labor and Public Employees Committee,

I am testifying in strong support of SB 1178 AN ACT EXPANDING CONNECTICUT PAID SICK DAYS.

My name is Maria Borja, and I live in Norwalk. I'm a member of Comunidades Sin Fronteras which has 300 members in the state. Our organization fights for workers' rights. We belong to Recovery For All – a statewide coalition fighting for a better future for Connecticut, bringing together more than 60 community, faith, and labor organizations

I am an essential worker, a person that wakes up everyday and goes to work as a child care worker as millions of other many essential workers in the state of Connecticut. A person that is very important in the society we live in because I am raising the children of the next generation, catering to working parents to succeed at the corporate world or own businesses.

We, The Essential Workers want and need more Paid sick days, in my field (childcare) I am the sole Caregiver of a family for a period of time and while the people I have worked through this years have been very considerate with me, I still need extra days to schedule medical appointments, follow up appointments, and even reschedule medical appointments due to the fact that we have a shortage of physicians. I also see the need to have Mental Health days to have therapy and so much needed breaks.

I should be able to be under the umbrella of the Act of Paid sick days but since I don't belong to a company that have more than 50 workers I do not qualify to have these right, I will like for this to be changed to "All Workers", freelancers, Part Time workers, Essential Workers, Full Time Workers because we all belong under the workforce.

I urge this committee to support bill SB 1178 Please prioritize the rights of Connecticut workers and support these critical policies.

Thank you!

Maria Borja
Norwalk, CT